

Message Text

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TAGS: PORG, PEPR, UNGA, KS, KN
SUBJECT: NON-ALIGNED DECLARATION AND KOREAN QUESTION

REF: A. STATE 196683, B. SEOUL 6932

1. SUMMARY: SOUTH KOREAN MINISTER K.C. LEE AND COUNSELORS S.Y. LEE AND HONG DISCUSSED WITH POLMIN PETREE AND MISOFFS AUG 11 THE BELGRADE DECLARATION ON KOREA AND POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS FOR ACTION IN UN. CONSENSUS WAS THAT THERE WERE GOOD REASONS WITHIN NON-ALIGNED CONTEXT FOR NORTH KOREANS TO HAVE TAKEN DECISION TO CHANGE TACTICS THAT RESULTED IN MORE MODERATE LANGUAGE AT BELGRADE. THIS DID NOT NECESSARILY INDICATE ANY INTENTION ON THEIR PART TO RAISE SUBJECT IN UNGA. IT WAS IMPORTANT, NONETHELESS, TO BE ALERT TO ANY MOVE IN THAT DIRECTION AND MISSIONS WILL REMAIN IN CLOSE TOUCH AND EXCHANGE WHATEVER USEFUL INFORMATION EACH ACQUIRES. END SUMMARY.

2. IN AUG 11 DISCUSSION OF BELGRADE DECLARATION LANGUAGE ON KOREA AND WHAT IT MIGHT OR MIGHT NOT SIGNIFY CONCERNING NORTH KOREAN INTENTIONS VIS-A-VIS UNGA CONSIDERATION OF QUESTION, SOUTH KOREAN OBSERVER MISSION AND USUN OFFICERS AGREED THAT NORTH KOREANS
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APPEARED TO HAVE DECIDED ON TACTICAL SHIFT PRIOR TO BELGRADE CONFERENCE. IT WAS NOTED THAT ALMOST A THIRD OF 25 MEMBERS OF NACB HAD RESERVED ON HARD-LINE KOREAN TEXT AT HAVANA, WHERE GENERAL DISTASTE FOR SUBJECT HAD BEEN EVIDENCED. AT BELGRADE WHEN OBJECTIONS HAD BEEN MADE TO TEXT PROPOSED BY NORTH KOREANS, THEY HAD QUICKLY AGREED TO AMENDMENTS THAT RESULTED IN MUCH MORE MODERATE

WORDING. HONG POINTED OUT NORTH KOREAN FONMIN'S SPEECH AT CONFERENCE HAD ALSO BEEN MORE MODERATE THAN USUAL, NOT MENTIONING US BY NAME AND AVOIDING USE OF MORE EXTREME TERMINOLOGY NORMALLY EMPLOYED. THIS ALL TENDED TO SHOW AN ADVANCE DECISION IN PYONGYANG TO CHANGE TACTICS AT BELGRADE.

3. MINISTER LEE SUGGESTED THIS INDICATED GREATER SENSITIVITY TO OPINIONS OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND A DESIRE TO "WIN BACK" OLD FRIENDS. NORTH KOREA SEEMED PARTICULARLY ANXIOUS TO GAIN SUPPORT OF ASIANS WITH MOST OF WHOM IT DID NOT ENJOY VERY GOOD RELATIONS. MISOFF NOTED REGIONAL SUPPORT WAS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT IN NAM, WHICH SEEMED TO DO MUCH OF ITS WORK IN REGIONAL GROUPINGS. IN LIGHT OF POOR SHOWING NORTH KOREANS HAD MADE IN NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCES IN RECENT YEARS, WITH LARGE NUMBER OF RESERVATIONS ON DECLARATIONS ON KOREA, IT WAS REASONABLE TO ASSUME THAT THEIR DECISION TO CHANGE TACTICS WAS TAKEN WITHOUT REGARD TO CONSIDERATIONS RELATED TO THE UN BUT SIMPLY TO ACHIEVE A MORE SATISFACTORY RESULT IN THE NAM. ALL AGREED THAT THERE WERE NO SPECIFIC INDICATIONS SO FAR THAT NORTH KOREA PLANNED ANY MOVE IN UN AND THAT, DESPITE GREATER SUPPORT IN NAM FOR MORE MODERATE WORDING, THERE WAS NO GREAT INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT. ON THE CONTRARY, ANY MOVE TO RAISE IT IN THE GA WOULD PROBABLY BE RECEIVED WITH NO ENTHUSIASM
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BY MOST UN MEMBERS, INCLUDING MAJORITY OF NON-ALIGNED.

4. PETREE NOTED POSSIBILITY OF NORTH KOREAN MOVE IN GA MUST BE ADMITTED AND WE MUST REMAIN ALERT TO DEVELOPMENTS. THERE WAS LITTLE HARD INFO AVAILABLE, BUT MOST OBSERVERS SEEMED TO FEEL THAT NORTH KOREANS DO NOT INTEND TO MAKE MOVE THIS YEAR. THEY HAD REGARDED RESULT AT 30TH GA IN 1975 A VICTORY AND MAY BE SATISFIED TO LET THAT REMAIN RATHER THAN TAKE CHANCE OF ACHIEVING SOMETHING LESS. MISOFF POINTED OUT THAT ACT OF RAISING ISSUE NOW COULD BE LOOKED ON AS "CONFRONTATIONAL" IN ITSELF AND IT WAS AGREED THAT TACTICS FOR HANDLING QUESTION SHOULD NORTH KOREANS RAISE IT WOULD HAVE TO BE ALTERED TO SUIT SITUATION QUITE DIFFERENT FROM THAT FACED IN PAST.

5. KOREANS ASKED THAT WE KEEP THEM ADVISED OF ANY DEVELOPMENTS WE LEARNED ABOUT, IN OUR CONTACTS WITH SECRETARIAT AS WELL AS OTHER DELS. PETREE ASSURED THEM WE WOULD DO SO. IT WAS ALSO AGREED THAT, WHILE KEEPING IN CLOSE TOUCH, OUR CONSULTATIONS SHOULD REMAIN LOW-KEY AS TOO MUCH ACTIVITY ON SUBJECT COULD

AROUSE UNWARRANTED SUSPICIONS ON PART OF NORTH KOREANS
AND PERHAPS EVEN PRECIPITATE ACTION BY THEM. LEONARD

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